



"substitute"

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

GROUP 3500

A latching system, in accordance with a first preferred embodiment of the  
5 present invention, comprises a notched post assembly, a post gripping assembly  
and a handle assembly, and, in preferred embodiments, a lock assembly associated  
with the handle assembly. The notched post assembly is comprised of an  
elongated post formed at one end with at least two opposing, axially extending  
rows of notches or teeth and alternately disposed smooth surfaces. The post  
gripping assembly comprises a channel for accepting the notched end of the post  
10 and comprises movable latch elements which cooperate with the notches of the  
post to effect the primary latching function of the system. The unlatching of the  
post from the channel is accomplished by rotating the post to disengage the  
notches and the latch elements. A latch, in accordance with a second preferred  
15 embodiment of the present invention, comprises a post and collar gripping and  
release mechanism cooperatively mounted to the door and door frame of a vending  
machine, cabinet, or the like, to provide an initial latching function in the form of a  
frictional gripping of the post by the collar, and further comprises a lock assembly  
associated with the post and collar mechanism to provide a primary locking  
20 function and to effect release of the latching function.

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